

City of San Jose
To: Envision San Jose 2040 Task Force.

9/2/08

RE: New General Plan - Smart Growth - Transit Corridors.

As a resident interested in SJ Planning for almost 50 years I am most concerned about the direction of the new General Plan depending on Smart Growth and Transit Corridors.

1. I am concerned that the Planning staff is not fully aware of the capability of rail transportation, especially in our spread out valley not suitable for rail.
2. I am concerned by the operation of Valley Transportation Authority, being able to provide the service that the proposed plan will require.
 - VTA is the most mismanaged system in the US.
 - The Board of Directors is not responsible to the users so better management can not be expected in the near future.

FACTS:

- For 20 years VTA has spent 80% of transportation funds on transit with the objective of getting people out of cars with NO success.
- Transit provides about 1% of trips and light rail about 1/5% of one percent of trips.
- VTA 2020 Plan Page #9 reports that 90,000 auto trips a day will not be possible to be made because of road congestion.
- The future growth of San Jose is being planned to be built around a light-rail system that now or in the future can not provide one percent of trips. Autos will be providing 90% of trips on increasingly congested roads.
- Nationally transit is decreasing.
- Trips is the critical factor evaluating transit ridership, not near by jobs or housing.

Smart Growth: Delusion, Not Vision - by Wendell Cox an international planning and transit expert. <http://www.demographia.com:80/db-sfrailvolu.htm>

Slide show by Tom Rubin, one of the top transportation experts in the US.

VTA- the-nations-worst-managed-transit-agency
<http://americandreamcoalition.org/Rubin11-10-07.pdf>

Transit Studies by Randal O'Toole - Transport and Planning Expert with the Cato Institute.
<http://americandreamcoalition.org/ADCFS2.pdf> **Rail Won't Save America.**
<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-615.pdf> **Does Rail Transit Save Energy ?**

It is essential that we get it right. Hopefully these comments will be helpful.

Lowell Grattan Long time resident of a San Jose pioneer family
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